

Applicants: Triantopoulos et al.
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REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Design No. 302,420 to McGrane. This determination is respectfully traversed.

In responding to Applicants previous arguments, the Examiner states that McGrane in Figures 3, 7 and 8 "clearly shows an elongate conductor accommodating body extending in step wise fashion from above and below the central body".

Independent claim 1 of the present invention recites an elongate central body having a longitudinal bore and an elongate conductor accommodating body extending along the central body in step wise fashion above and below the body in side-by-side relationship. It is respectfully submitted that contrary to the Examiner's contention McGrane does not show a conductor accommodating body extending in step wise fashion above and below the central body.

With respect to the Figure 8 depiction of McGrane, it can be clearly seen that the two surfaces for receiving conductors are both on the same side of the conductor receiving aperture, i.e., below the conductor receiving aperture as presented in Figure 8. Even if one were to look at the connector shown in Figure 8 as oriented on its side, while it could be argued that the conductor receiving apertures are above and below the stud receiving aperture, they in no way

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could be said to be in a step wise orientation with respect thereto. Thus, as it relates to claim 1, McGrane fails to clearly show an elongate conductor accommodating body extending along the central body in a step wise fashion above and below the body in side-by-side relationship.

As the Examiner is well aware, in order for a reference to be anticipatory each and every element set forth in the claim must be shown in the reference. *In re Paulsen*, 30 F.3d 1445 (Fed. Cir. 1994). McGrane does not clearly show an elongate conductor accommodating body extending along the central body in step wise fashion above and below the body, as is set forth in the claim 1. Accordingly, McGrane cannot be anticipatory thereof. Therefore, the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is believed to be overcome.

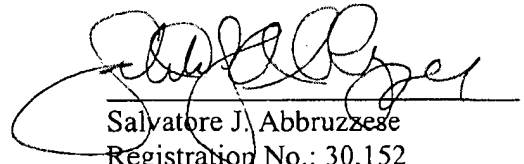
As this is the only rejection of the claims, it is respectfully submitted that the application, including claims 1-9, is in condition for allowance. Favorable action thereon is respectfully solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional fees, including additional claim fees, associated with this communication, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 20-0776. Such authorization includes authorization to charge fees for extensions of time, if any, under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 and also should be treated as a constructive petition for an extension of time in this reply or any future reply pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136.

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Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this response, the undersigned would be pleased to address them by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,



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